

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel processor for rapidly achieving operating temperature, said fuel processor comprising:

a reformer converting a hydrogen-containing fuel to H<sub>2</sub>-containing reformat;

a shift reactor in fluid communication with said reformer, said shift reactor being operable to reduce carbon monoxide levels of said reformat;

a preferential oxidation reactor in fluid communication with said shift reactor, said preferential oxidation reactor being operable to further reduce carbon monoxide levels of said reformat exiting said shift reactor; and

a first combustion heater system coupled to at least one of said reformer, said shift reactor, and said preferential oxidation reactor, said first combustion heater system ~~being operable~~ operated in a lean state to produce thermal energy as a product of ~~the internal~~ combustion of air and fuel in the form of a first heated exhaust stream that is passed through said at least one of said reformer, said shift reactor, and said preferential oxidation reactor.